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UCAPAWA NEWS

Vol. I—No. 6 FEBRUARY, 1940 10¢ a Copy or 5¢ in Bulk

Tobacco Delegates to District 7 Convention

Left to right, first row: Louis Rosenberg, Florencio Sotolongo, Armando Valdez, Concha Martinez, Juan Mira, Roger Garcia and Mariano Punales. Standing, left to right: Morris Fischman, May Kern, Donald Henderson, Armando Ramirez, Leif Dahl and Mariano Arnao.

Official Publication of
The United Cannery, Agricultural, Packing and Allied Workers of America, CIO

UCAPAWA NEWS

"AN INJURY TO ONE IS AN INJURY TO ALL"

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE United Cannery, Agricultural, Packing & Allied Workers of America, Affiliated with Congress of Industrial Organizations

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Vol. I, No. 6 **February, 1940**

International Board Members

DISTRICT OFFICERS AND INTERNATIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

DISTRICT I: Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, Washington

CONRAD ESPE, President District I, International Vice-President, 206 Bay Building, Seattle, Washington.

V. O. NAVEA, International Vice-President, Business Agent Local 7, 84 Union Street, Seattle, Washington.

FLORENCE PALMER, Secretary-Treasurer District I, 3025 Arcade Building, Seattle, Washington.

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T. R. RASMUSSEN, District II President, 315 Currier Building, Los Angeles, California.

LUKE HINMAN, Acting Secretary-Treasurer, District II, 315 Currier Building, Los Angeles, California.

CALIXTO PIANO, Organizer, 1393 Kamehameha Avenue, Hanapepe, Kauai, T. H.

DISTRICT III: Colorado, Wyoming, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico

FIDEL HERRERA, President, District III, Post Office Box 356, Denver, Colorado.

CLYDE JOHNSON, International Representative, Post Office Box 356, Denver, Colorado.

LEE BACA, International Vice-President, Route 1, Box 54, La Salle, Colorado.

DISTRICT IV: Missouri, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Western Tennessee, Northern Mississippi

O. H. WHITFIELD, International Vice-President, Secretary-Treasurer Missouri Agricultural Workers Council, Box 54, Pine Street YMCA, St. Louis, Missouri.

OTIS G. NATION, International Representative for Oklahoma, General Delivery, Bristow, Oklahoma.

JOHN DAY, International Representative for Arkansas and Missouri, c/o Sikeston Salvage and Supply Company, Sikeston, Missouri.

DISTRICT V: Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio

HAROLD LANE, President District V, 214 Mettler Street, Toledo, Ohio.

JOHN SCHMIES, International Representative, 4758 South Marshfield Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

JOSEPH SNIEGOWSKI, International Vice-President, Post Office Box 35, First Street, Lemont, Illinois.

DISTRICT VI: Florida

EDWARD M. NORMAN, Secretary District VI, Post Office Box 268, Winter Haven, Florida.

DISTRICT VII: Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey, Connecticut

LEIF DAHL, President, District VII, International Vice-President, 1511 Race Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

ARMANDO RAMIREZ, Secretary-Treasurer, District VII, 241 East Eighty-Fourth Street, New York City.

DISTRICT VIII: Texas

JOE WRIGHT, International Representative, Pecan Shellers Union Local 172, 804½ South Frio Street, San Antonio, Texas.

HARRY KOGER, President District VIII, General Delivery, Longview, Texas.

ALFRED D. SILVA, International Vice-President, 804½ South Frio Street, San Antonio, Texas.

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PAUL ALDRIDGE, Secretary-Treasurer Arizona State Council, 747 Grand Avenue, Phoenix, Arizona.

Maryland-Virginia State Council

EDWARD PETERS, President Maryland-Virginia State Council, 327 East Washington Street, Suffolk, Virginia.

Wisconsin-Minnesota-Iowa Tri-State Council

JAMES DeWITT, International Representative, 1621 West Wells Street, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

EDWARD BRIESE, Secretary-Treasurer Tri-State Council, 927 West Keefe Avenue, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

WHO IS WHO IN OUR UNION

Local 7 Elects New Officers

Local 7 faces the New Year with many new leaders in key offices. On page 9 we describe the new President of Local 7, Trinidad Rojo.

Let us take a look at some of the other new leaders Local 7 has elected to guide them in their struggles with the salmon industry during the coming year.

Secretary

In the office of Secretary now is Ignacio Josue, new to the office, but in no sense new to participation in the Local's many battles. Since the last UCAPAWA National Convention, Josue has been on the International Board of Trustees.

Ever since the beginning of organization, he has been an outstanding member of the Local with the well earned reputation of being the best shop delegate in all Alaska. His worth as an honest fighter for militant trade union principles is fully appreciated by the membership. He will not disappoint that membership as Secretary.

Treasurer

Working closely with Rojo and Josue is Mert Ventura, newly elected Treasurer. He, too, first won his spurs on the job, having been shop delegate for the union.

His marriage to a Japanese girl is symbolic of the unity between various nationalities within the Local.

These new officers head the biggest Local in UCAPAWA. Its membership is made up of those who ship to Alaska from Seattle each Summer and work in the salmon canneries. From an average wage of $25 a month the Local has raised wages to a minimum of $160 per month. Local 7 is one of UCAPAWA's largest and most important. We wish the new Officers all the luck in the world for the coming year.

News of the Month

MR. YOUTH IN WASHINGTON

As UCAPAWA NEWS went to press, 3,000 young men and women were convening in the nation's capital for the National Citizenship Institute, under the auspices of the American Youth Congress.

Mr. Youth came to Washington with the purpose of discussing jobs, vocational training, civil liberties and peace. He knocked at the White House door, conferred with government agencies and dealt with community, regional, state and national problems affecting America's new generation.

UCAPAWA was represented at the Institute sessions by our youthful secretary-treasurer, Michael Howard.

UMW SPEAKS FOR LABOR

During the latter part of January, the representatives of 600,000 coal miners met in Columbus, Ohio, in the Golden Jubilee Convention of the United Mine Workers of America

The 82-page report of the UMW's officers took a strong position against United States involvement in foreign wars declaring: "The only war in which we should participate is the war to destroy and wipe out the causes that lead to unemployment, to sub-standard wages, inadequate purchasing power, the inequitable, unjust distribution of national income, all of which adversely affect the principles of economic justice and security under our political democracy."

Defending the Wagner Act, the Report hit the "perfidious work of the representatives of the AFL and other reactionary enemies of organized labor in this country who would destroy the National Labor Relations Act and the Board for their own selfish purposes, if they could."

John L. Lewis decisively stated "that labor and the people are losing confidence" and that "the present Congress is without program." His words predicting "ignominious defeat" for Roosevelt, if he runs for a third term, resounded like a thunderbolt throughout the nation and left a number of faint-hearted "friends" of labor shivering from shock.

The voice of labor was heard at the great Mine Workers Jubilee Convention.

FOR AMERICAN DEMOCRATIC TRADITIONS

One hundred prominent people in all walks of American life are sponsoring the fourth Annual Conferenc of the American Committee for the Protection of Foreign Born, to be held in Washington, D. C., on March 2 and 3. Acting as co-chairmen of the sponsors are Ernest Hemingway and Dr. William Allan Neilson.

No timelier conference could be held, when reactionary forces are backing 60 "anti-alien" legislative bills in a drive for a blackout of civil liberties in America.

So rabid and unfounded is the "alien" baiting campaign that even the New York Times saw fit to say editorially: "If a racial minority of non-citizens can be registered, finger-printed and threatened with concentration camps, it may not be long before a political minority of citizens can be treated in the same fashion."

The so-called anti-alien measures are meant to open the flood gates of reaction in this country. Thereby there is a call for upholding the arm of Liberty, "lifting her lamp besides the golden door." Labor and progressives know this and have expressed themselves in state conferences throughout the nation. But the press is generally silent.

President Henderson of UCAPAWA is scheduled as a speaker for the panel on Citizenship and Education. Our union wholeheartedly supports the Conference and will take special interest in backing measures favoring the Mexican and Filipino peoples in the United States.

HELP AMERICA FIRST

Under the clear-cut slogan "Help America First," the National Council to Aid Agricultural Workers, with headquarters in Washington, sponsored a National Week for Agricultural Labor. A delegation of sharecroppers, led by UCAPAWA Vice-President Owen H. Whitfield, toured Chicago, Toledo, Philadelphia and New York, addressing meetings prepared by the local aid committees.

Washington saw the most lively meeting when sharecroppers' and cotton pickers' representatives from the South spoke of their problems and sang before a large audience of government workers and professional people.

The National Week for Agricultural Labor was held at the close of UCAPAWA's successful National Cotton Conference, on January 15 and 16.

District 5 Elects Officers

Following a successful convention with representatives from sixteen UCAPAWA locals, held on January 20 and 21, in Toledo, Ohio, the newly elected District 5 Executive Board met and discussed plans for immediate organizational activities.

Decisions included further concentration in the Chicago Argo plant, activities in Cleveland and a survey by Saginaw, Mighigan locals to determine further UCAPAWA expansion in the city.

District 5, UCAPAWA officers elected at the convention are: President, Harold Lane, Toledo, Ohio; Vice-President, Edward Mitchell, Chicago, Illinois; Secretary Treasurer, Stanley Kaiser, Toledo, Ohio; Board members, Pearl Gifford, Elwood, Indiana; Christine Klopf, Saginaw, Michigan; Clyde Degood, Toledo, Ohio; Elam Gibson, Chicago, Illinois.

The organizational drive in Chicago will be led by John Schmies and Evelyn Christie. Harold Lane will conduct activities in Cleveland and service the Indiana locals.

Women's Auxiliaries

At the CIO Convention, held in San Francisco last October, a meeting was held of all the women present who were members or officers of ladies' auxiliaries.

A committee was established, headed by Kathryn Lewis, to coordinate activities of the ladies' auxiliaries throughout the country, independent of CIO and of a purely informal character.

The committee is requesting all ladies' auxiliaries to communicate with Miss Lewis, at the United Mine Workers' Building, Washington, D. C.

Sharecroppers Ask Uncle Sam For Benefits Due Them

Fear is man's greatest enemy. The boss in the South has known this only too well. For years he has kept "His sharecroppers and cotton wage workers" in fear.

But sharecroppers, black and white, are men with brains and hearts and stomachs! They have learned all about the landlord's trump card, fear, and they are out to beat it as has been shown by their recent action.

Twenty-eight delegates from the Southern States Cotton Council, set up at Memphis in December by UCAPAWA, came to Washington to attend a National Cotton Conference held by the union on January 15 and 16.

Through mud, snow, sleet and ice they came in jalopies and their spirits were high. Neither the weather nor the government officials with whom they discussed their problems at the Cotton Conference could daunt them.

They Knew What They Wanted

They came with a purpose and a program. In spite of technical complicated explanations by some Federal Administrators and Government Representatives they put across their program and made polite but firm demands.

In most cases Government Representatives were cooperative. In telling their stories of dealing with the AAA, FSA, WPA, delegates however brought out the stark and naked truth.

These government agencies set up for the purpose of helping those neediest in the rural areas have worked out in such a way that more often than not they help the landlords and the big shots.

Rehabilitation

With Assistant FSA Administrator R. W. Hudgens, delegates discussed the question of rehabilitation loans. When a man applies for a loan, it is largely up to a county committee and the county supervisor to determine whether or not he shall get it. County committees are made up of big landlords and ginners.

"What kind of papers should we get for a loan? It seems that we can't get any kind of papers," said Ed Harris from Arkansas. "They run us out of the office when we come for application blanks."

Hudgens of FSA and Randolph from triple-A advised delegates to write Washington about unfair practices of county supervisors and committees.

"If we do write don't send it back to the man down there," said Reverend Whitfield. Delegates made it plain that local bosses turned the good intent of the government into a money grabbing game for themselves.

When a sharecropper or cotton laborer writes to Washington his letter is referred back to the local leaders. Result, he gets beat up or scared so hard he never writes again.

Landlords keep triple-A benefit checks. Landlords give rehabiliatation loans only to those they wish to give them to. The same holds true of WPA jobs.

Program

In answer to these abuses delegates had a program that they gave to Federal officials at the Cotton Conference. With them they had brought a petition to President Roosevelt and Secretary Wallace signed by 22,872 of their fellow sufferers. It called for the following actions:

1. Government action to end wholesale evictions that take place every December and January in the South.

2. Action by the Farm Security Administration and Federal Housing Administration to keep decent shelter over our heads.

3. Enough relief during the Winter months to keep our families from starving.

4. Changing laws at this session of Congress which will make payments of benefits to cotton landlords depend on the following requirements:

A. Full legal sharing of benefit checks.

B. Written contracts between sharecropper and landlord.

C. Holding of Federal Wage hearings and setting of a living wage which all growers must pay for work done on the crop before any benefits can be paid to the landlord.

Visit Mrs. Roosevelt

A delegation from the Conference was invited by Mrs. Roosevelt to visit her at the White House and discuss their problems.

Reverend Owen Whitfield, Blanche Fisher and Mrs. Owen Whitfield saw Mrs. Roosevelt. In her column "My Day" on January 19 Mrs. Roosevelt told the public about her visit with the sharecroppers.

John L. Lewis sent Walter Smethurst, Executive Assistant to Mr. Lewis, to welcome the conference and attend its sessions. Mr. Smethurst was to report proceedings to the CIO and to secure backing of the CIO nationally, for sharecropper and cotton laborer demands.

Five members of the delegation stayed over in the East to attend meetings in Philadelphia, Baltimore and New York. So impressive was the spirit of these sharecropper and laborer delegates from the South with their positive and practical demands that Mayor LaGuardia himself welcomed them to New York City.

Ice Melting

"The ice is melting down South," said one of the delegates. He meant that those

who labor in cotton, especially the colored people, are losing their fear.

It used to be, only two or three years ago, that a colored man in the South dared say little more than "Yes, Sir" and "No, Sir" to the white boss man whether he be landlord or government official.

Today the old fear has lost its icy grip. Reverend Whitfield is on a sharecropper-landlord committee appointed by Governor Stark of Missouri.

When fear melts away courage boils up slowly in a man's heart. He becomes himself and deals with all other men as an equal. Thus the sharecroppers and cotton wage workers of the South are changing. Little fear is left to chill their hearts and each day the courage grows stronger and warmer.

STFU Exposed By Croppers

We, the undersigned sharecroppers, tenants, and day laborers from Oklahoma, Arkansas, Missouri, Texas and Alabama, representing our Local and State organizations affiliated with the UCAPAWA, CIO, and now attending the National Cotton Conference in Washington, D. C., wish to warn all friends of cotton workers against certain unscrupulous and careerist individuals and paper organizations who allege support among us.

We wish to make the following unqualified statements.

1. That in the states of Oklahoma, Texas, Arkansas, Missouri and Alabama no other organization or Union except affiliates of the CIO has any effective membership or Locals composed of sharecroppers, tenants or day laborers.

2. That attempts to collect money and solicit support by such organizations or groups are based upon inflated membership and activity claims and any such money raised does not go toward effective organization or assistance to cotton workers.

3. That the sharecropper encampment composed of evicted workers in Southeastern Missouri never had nor has now any connection with the Southern Tenant Farmers' Union.

4. That to our knowledge the Southern Tenant Farmers' Union has no single Local or paid up members in the States of Oklahoma, Texas or Alabama, and no effective organization in the States of Arkansas or Missouri.

The organized sharecroppers and cot-

(Continued on page 16)

Movies and School Used in California Cotton Campaign

BAKERSFIELD, Cal. — Terminating the San Joaquin Valley cotton pickers' strike with victories in both wage and organization, the Field Workers Branch is now carrying out the points of its long-range organizational program.

We found that at the conclusion of the strike we had 11 locals in the area between Bakersfield and Madera. Membership in these locals varies from 300 in Madera to 45 in Wasco, with the average membership at about 60. These are the dues paying, probably resident, members who make up the backbone of the locals.

In addition to them we have large numbers of workers who are working with the union in one of two ways; they carry UCAPAWA books from some other local and have not joined the one where they are working, or they do not have the money to pay the $1 initiation fee but work with union in strikes, wage hearings, and such work. Those who fall in the latter group probably number several thousand, and they are our immediate potential membership.

Projects which embrace all these locals are the Field Workers Conference, the Agricultural Workers School, the educational movie programs, and the circulating library.

The Field Workers Conference is made up of three delegates from each local. It meets to act and advise on problems of the union which will involve all the field workers of the state, such as general organizational problems within the union, action on crops common to the whole area, and the union's legislative program. Here the delegates of the locals gain the long-range point of view of the organizational program necessary to keeping up the morale of their members, and as leaders they learn to decide on important problems affecting thousands of workers.

School Opened

Outstanding point of the educational program is the school which will be held in Bakersfield from Jan. 15 to Feb. 15. Approximately thirty men and women will spend this month studying various phases of union work in general, coupled with detailed study of the particular problems of agricultural workers.

The curriculum is divided into: Union problems, trade union history, California agriculture, current events. Regular classes will be held under direction of competent teachers, with additional conferences and forum meetings on some subjects. Students are being selected from among those who will be residents where their locals are centered, and who are the most promising material for leadership.

The Motion Picture Guild of Hollywood is cooperating with us in presenting trade union movies in each of the locals every two weeks. We find this method is almost invaluable in bringing workers to the union halls and telling them the story of unionism. Very few of the workers have a chance to attend regular motion picture shows, so when they find they can see movies at the union halls for only five cents—which covers the expense of renting films and paying a projectionist—they pack the halls.

The Guild is a group interested in producing films, and hopes to use this as a start in their plan to make pictures especially for labor union audiences. As an important addition to the movies, the Guild members are now sending us books, fiction and non-fiction which we distribute among the locals.

Regional Councils

Besides the work on a state-wide scale, we have broken the state up into regions. Each region has a regional director and a regional council representing the locals.

It is in this council that the detailed plans for action are made, and problems of organization within locals are discussed. The council, made up of three delegates from each field workers local and also delegates from the industrial locals of the region, meets at least once a month.

As the members of the regional council become better grounded in unionism and better able to conduct the activities of the union, we plan to leave them in almost complete control of their regions. Our organization is built on the premise that the workers must solve their own problems, and it is with the regional council that this responsibility will lie.

When our membership grows a little bit larger the return from dues payments plus a per capita payment to the council should be sufficient to support the council chairman as the organizer representing the UCAPAWA for the region.

SUGAR

Canadian Beet Workers Local Affiliates with UCAPAWA

By JOHN S. BELUCH, President
and
WILLIAM REPKA, Secretary
Alberta Beet Workers Union

JOHN S. BELUCH

"Please convey our warmest fraternal greetings to the officers and delegates assembled at your Conference. May your deliberations help smash starvation wages and bring real Democracy to the millions of wage earners in agriculture."

The above telegram was sent to the Alberta Beet Workers Union by UCAPAWA when the Alberta Union voted at their Fifth Annual Convention to affiliate with the CIO Agricultural Union.

WILLIAM REPKA

JOHN S. BELUCH

The Beet Workers Industrial Union was first organized in 1934, at which time it became affiliated to the Workers Unity League.

In the Spring of 1935 the Alberta Co-operative Sugar Beet Growers Association was suggesting contracts of $16.50 per acre for cash contracts with similar payments on the share and tonnage contracts. This was to have been a reduction of 50c per acre over 1934.

Strike Won

With the threatened wage cut our union called a strike, and as a result, the wages, instead of being cut from $17 to $16.50, were raised to $19. The growers paid $1 of the increase and the company paid the other $1.

The other point won in the strike was that where we used to get a bonus for all tonnage over 12 tons per acre the strike won a bonus for over 10 tons per acre.

The strike also helped to eliminate much extra work. It did away with most of the free work that some workers did in order to get contracts and better housing. We also organized grievance committees in every locality.

In 1936, through another strike, we were able to get $20 per acre and official recognition of our grievance committees by the growers, through a clause in the contracts.

In 1937, without the need of a strike, we were able to get $21 per acre but the grievance committee clause was taken out of the contract and the Beet Growers Association refused to negotiate with representatives of the union.

This contract has remained the same for 1938 and 1939 with just a few minor changes brought in by our having wage conferences of the union just before grower conferences to which later we brought our proposals.

No AFL

When the Workers Unity League was dissolved in 1936, we immediately tried to get into the American Federation of Labor and the Trades Labor Congress of Canada but the results were negative.

Since 1935 our union has maintained an office in the city of Lethbridge. We have two paid officials. Through the office and locals we have handled hundreds of beet workers grievances.

WILLIAM REPKA

This year alone well over 50 grievances were taken care of. We were able, this year, to give 63 workers jobs on beets through our office.

Increased Wages

Through increases in wages our union has brought an additional $892,000 to the beet wrokers of Southern Alberta. In the settlement of grievances the additional money put into beet workers pockets would bring that figure well over the $1,250,000 mark.

In the Spring of 1938 we had asked for a Government Conciliation Board in order to bring our union and the Growers Association together for negotiations. The government skillfully kept putting it off untli it was too late to take effective action.

In the Spring of 1939 the Government

sent down a committee from the Board of Industrial Relations. The Committe told us that the minimum wage laws of Alberta expressly excluded agricultural labor and left them powerless. However the government representatives met our Committee of 12 board members and local representatives. After a long discussion it was agreed that any grievances we could not settle with the Growers Association could be taken by us to the Board of Industrial Relations and the Board would help us settle it. Growers also agreed to this.

It Works

This has worked out very well. Individual growers know about the arrangement and the result is much greater facility in settling any grievances. We have not yet had to write to the Board in connection with any deadlocks.

The Alberta Beet Workers Union, as it has been called since 1936, has been a great boon to its members and to all the other beet workers in this area.

Officers of Local 155

From left to right: Chairman J. Gossett, Rec. Sec'y M. M. Reynolds, Fin. Sec'y John E. Huber, Treasurer and News Reporter Mrs. M. M. Reynolds, Trustees Mrs. Huber and Joe Stachlowsky, Sergeant-at-Arms Max Castello, Committee Members Miguel Chavez and Ralph Shafer.

Montana Local Slaps Wheeler

By MRS. M. M. REYNOLDS
Local 155

At present we are the only local in Montana. Located in Billings, most of our membership work beets. Our local is growing. We took in four new members last meeting. We meet every Thursday night. It's our hope to have a local in each of the five sugar factory districts by Spring and then we won't stop.

Our local recently passed a resolution condemning Senator Burton K. Wheeler. In the resolution we point out that he voted against the sitdown strike and tried to wreck the Wages and Hours Bill. We say:

"The members of organized labor in Montana know him to be a traitor to the people who trusted him and placed him in the high office he now holds, and know from long acquaintance with his policies that he has constantly aligned himself with forces of reaction at times when vital issues were at stake.

"If elected President we are certain his treachery and his faithlessness to the progressive cause will continue and he will betray the laboring man and woman of America even as he has betrayed the laboring man and woman of Montana."

Horticulture

Greenhouse Pact Signed

A new agreement between UCAPAWA Local 193 and the Robert Craig Company of Norwood Pennsylvania, growers and sellers of greenhouse and nursery products, has been signed.

The outstanding feature of the new agreement is that one week's vacation with pay is granted every worker with five years seniority with lesser vacations for workers who have been there for less time.

This is the only greenhouse in the East that gives its workers such vacations with pay.

Hours were slightly reduced with no reductions in the weekly wage scale, several increases were won, and the closed shop provision, six holidays with pay, seniority provisions, grievance machinery and other benefits secured in past agreements retained.

Local 193 is a pioneer in its field and has a record of very substantial wage increases and reduced hours to its credit in the Craig Company. The local is now concerned with organizing other greenhouse and nursery plants in Eastern Pennsylvania,

Members of the Committee that negotiated the agreement were Arthur C. Stang, Joseph A. Kennedy, Carl Groscup, Fred Rahbeck from the local and Leif Dahl from District 7.

Jobs and Pay Won Back

PHILADELPHIA, Pa.—United Nursery Workers Local 193 has won another great victory. It secured the reinstatement with back pay of four workers who were fired for joining the Union in the Eidson Landscape Company of Drexel Hill, Penna.

The workers also were given pay for all time lost since they were fired.

It is expected that this victory will result in the majority of the workers in the company joining Local 193 and that an agreement will soon be signed.

$27 Contract Rate Proposed by UCAPAWA

By CLYDE JOHNSON
International Representative

DENVER, Colorado—Fifty UCAPAWA beet worker representatives braved blizzards and belw zero weather to attend the Department of Agriculture sugar beet wage hearings, on January 19. On the eve of the hearings beet local delegates met and adopted a proposal for a flat rate contract of $27 per acre.

The scale was proposed as follows:

$12 per acre for thinning;

$2.50 per acre for first hoeing;

$1.50 per acre for second and subsequent hoeings and weedings;

$11 per acre for topping up to 12 tons and $1 per ton for each ton above 12 per acre.

The wage scale was presented to the hearing in the official statement of District 3, UCAPAWA.

Contract Proposals

The hearing permitted labor to present proposals to the Secretary of Agriculture for changes in grower-labor contracts. The Secretary has the right, under the Sugar Act, to make recommendations on contracts following the public hearing.

Proposals of UCAPAWA representatives included: direct signing of contracts with workers, guarantee of all work specified in contract, twice-yearly full wage payments, a guarantee of from 8 to 10 acres per worker, the outlawing of share contracts, that sugar companies be stopped from printing contracts and dictating labor conditions.

The union raised the demand of sugar beet labor contract hearings to be held jointly by the Departments of Labor and Agriculture and the adoption of a standard labor contract to be circulated through Farm Placement Service.

Raising the lack of material informing beet workers on their rights under the Sugar Act, the District 3 statement before the hearing declared:

"The Department publishes hundreds of pamphlets on bugs, but nothing so far on the rights of labor under the Sugar Act." Since the larger proportion of beet workers are Spanish speaking, adequate material in their language was asked for.

Sugar companies were condemned for printing grower-labor and share contracts without consulting the union. The union announced it would call on all beet workers to refuse to work without written contracts, to refuse use of the sugar company contract and use the union contract wherever possible.

Some growers asked for a five cent wage cut for topping. All growers admitted that labor was not getting enough. They said they were too poor to pay more. Some growers came right out and blamed the sugar companies for the whole business, pointing out the large company profits.

Fidel Herrera, President of District 3, and Clyde Johnson, International Representative, led the UCAPAWA delegation. It was the largest and best representation ever had by the UCAPAWA in a wage hearing under the Sugar Act.

Workers Testify

About 15 UCAPAWA representatives testified at the hearing. Clyde Johnson read the District statement and led the floor fight for the union. Fidel Herrera, Henry Garcia, J. M. Baca, Paul Cortez, Don Gonzales, Doroteo Garcia, J. A. Ramirez, Amos Baca, Vincente Vigil, Fred Dietz and M. Contreras were among those who testified.

The union protested the very short notice for the hearing, pointing out locals had only four or five days notice. UCA PAWA accused the Department of Agriculture of trying to keep beet workers out of the hearing.

New Locals Chartered

The following new locals were chartered between August 26, 1939 and January 24, 1940.

Local No. 192, Fish and Oyster Workers Union of Palacios, chartered August 31, 1939. Type of work: fish and oyster workers.

Mrs. Ethel Peres, Secretary, General Delivery, Palacios, Texas.

Local No. 304, Agricultural Workers Union, chartered August 31, 1939. Type of work: agricultural field workers.

Local No. 312, UCAPAWA, chartered September 12, 1939. Type of work: agricultural field workers.

Clark. T. Potter, Secretary, Post Office Box 655, Corcoran, California.

Local No. 327, Faithful Workers, chartered October 16, 1939. Type of Work: sharecroppers, tenants and day laborers in cotton.

Dave Haniford, secretary-treasurer, Route 1, Box 367, Marion, Arkansas.

Local No. 101, UCAPAWA, chartered October 23, 1939. Type of work: cannery workers.

Oscar Tate, secretary, 4220 South Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

Local No. 42, Kerman, California, chartered October 25, 1939. Type of work: agricultural field workers.

Mrs. Carrie Morris, president; Route 1, Box 366, Kerman, California.

Local No. 24. United Condensary Workers, chartered October 25, 1939. Type of work: milk condensary workers.

John Stephenson, president; Bloomer, Wisconsin.

Local No. 273, United Cigar Workers, chartered November 1, 1939. Type of work: cigar manufacturing.

Armando Ramirez, secretary-treasurer, 241 East Eighty-Fourth Street, New York City.

Local No. 328, Chowchilla Field Workers Union, chartered November 8, 1939. Type of work: agricultural workers in cotton and grapes.

Ross R. Lemons, recording secretary, Post Office Box 188, Chowchilla, California.

Local No. 329, Crab Pickers and Cannery Workers, chartered November 13, 1939. Type of work: crab canning.

Annabelle Stephens, secretary-treasurer, Port Orford, Oregon.

Local No. 103, Alberta Beet Workers Union, chartered November 27, 1939. Type of work: beet workers.

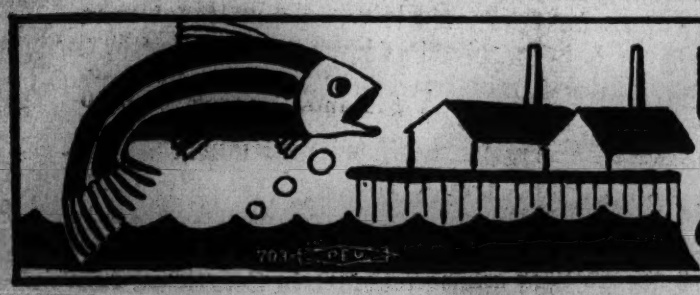
William Repka, secretary, Room 4, Soderberg Blk., Lethbridge, Alberta, Canada.

Local No. 104, Hartford Organizing Committee, chartered December 27, 1939. Type of work: field and warehouse workers in shade tobacco.

Mildred Allshouse, c/o Leonard Farmer, 450 Asylum Street, Room 8, Hartford, Connecticut.

Local No. 331, Fort Morgan, Colorado, Chartered January 22, 1940. Type of work: sugar beet farms, and factory.

Leslie Adams, corresponding secretary, 629 Sherman Street, Fort Morgan, Colorado.



FISH CANNING and SEAFOOD

Salmon Cannery Workers And the Cannery Industry

By TRINIDAD A. ROJO

Editorial Note: *The following article is a report made by Local 7's newly elected president to the Coastwise Conference of the Maritime Federation of the Pacific, held at Juneau, Alaska, January 9, 1940.*

Brother Rojo won the degree of Doctor of Philosophy at the University of Washington in 1940. He was at one time adviser to the Resident Commissioner for the Philippines. He has made a thorough study of the Alaska Salmon industry and labor conditions of minority groups along the Pacific Coast. His interest in the labor movement has shown itself practically. Long before he was elected president of Local 7, he was a recognized leader and spokesman among the rank and file.

Years before the union was started Rojo lead job actions in the canneries where he worked. No mere onlooker is he but an active member and fighter in the struggle for the rights of fish cannery workers.

Agitators make it seem to Alaskans, natives and whites, that orientals have elbowed them out from Alaska canneries. To examine the truth of this claim, it is necessary to trace the history of the salmon fishing and canning industry.

It started in the Columbia River area in 1866, on Puget Sound in 1874, and in Alaska in 1878. The first cannery in Alaska was built in Klawak.

The Chinese pioneered the industry with the whites and natives. In 1894 there were 1027 Chinese, 810 whites and 505 natives in the employ of the Alaskan salmon canneries.

Japanese Enter Industry

Afterwards Japanese came in increasing numbers. The Chinese were contractors employing Chinese and Japanese laborers. Gradually some of the Japanese graduated from the laboring class to foremanship.

Still later some of the Japanese foremen became contractors employing Japanese and a few Filipinos, as many as were then available. Competition arose between Chinese and Japanese contractors.

As Filipinos increased in number it was necessary for Chinese and Japanese contractors to appoint Filipino foremen. After gaining experience some of the Filipino foremen became contractors, thus competing with Chinese and Japanese old timers.

The point I want to make is that competition in the Alaskan salmon industry has been among orientals rather than between orientals on the one side and whites and natives on the other.

Fewer Orientals

The number of Chinese decreased from 2369 in 1920 to 887 in 1921, the Japanese from 1392 in 1920 to 611 in 1921, the Filipinos from 1587 in 1920 to 957 in 1921. During this period the total number of cannery workers increased from 24,432 in 1920 to 12,936 in 1921.

Competition by the orientals was not therefore the cause of the decrease in the number of whites and natives. It was the depression following prosperity during the World War.

In 1929 the number of Filipinos increased from 3939 in 1932 to 4022 and to 4210 in 1930. But there was no decrease in the number of whites and natives. In fact the number of whites mounted from 6510 in 1921 to 12,172 in 1929.

No Competition

Why is there no direct competition between the orientals and the whites as well as the natives in the Alaska salmon industry? Orientals, in the main, are employed as cannery workers in the fish house and in the warehouse. The whites are predominantly machinists, fishermen, watchmen, crews in tender boats, foremen, bookkeepers and superintendents.

During prosperous years the Americans do not bother with the jobs held by orientals in the canneries or elsewhere. Canneries were frequently short of help. In 1927, 1928, 1929 and 1930 suppliers of labor were paid as high as $10 per hand. Some contractors had to go to California to induce boys to go to Alaska.

Generally speaking whites and natives catch and bring the fish to the cannery, the white run the ma-

chines. Native and white women are to some extent employed in light work in the cannery and fish-house, while orientals do the harder and dirtier work. The increase of orientals enabled the industry to expand to the present stage, thus permitting the employment of more whites as well as native workers.

Orientals Help

The Orientals, as shown in this brief sketch of the history of the salmon industry, have helped in building the enterprise.

Now that they have succeeded in obtaining better working conditions and higher wages through hard fight by organizing themselves into unions in cooperation with whites and other nationalities, it is very unfair to demand their elimination. They are entitled to the pursuit of a livelihood and Government protection.

It seems to me that the best solution to the problem would be for the cannery laborers' organization in Alaska and those of California, Oregon and Washington to form an alliance or a federation so that they may settle differences in an amicable and human way.

Industry Competes

Natives of Alaska are entitled to a just share of their natural resources. Since the major income of the native employees in the salmon industry is derived from fishing, they meet competition from the industry itself rather than from the orientals.

The enormous traps of packers give little chance to native fishermen who go trolling in a small gas boat. The number of traps allowed each cannery should be reduced so that more native fishermen could find profitable employment. Perhaps the salmon industry, whose gross annual income is from $35,000,000 to $50,000,000, should be taxed more heavily by the Alaskan Government. The tax would be used for the improvement of conditions in the native towns.

If laborers engaged in the salmon industry of the Pacific Coast and Alaska form a big federation or alliance they would be in a better position to advance their interests and welfare.

Filipinos Decreasing

With regard to the Filipinos, Alaskans need not worry. According to the U. S. Census of 1930, there were at that time 42,268 Filipino males and only 2740 females in this country. The ratio of females to males in the States of Washington and Oregon is one female to every 33 males. Since intermarriage between Filipinos and other races is negligible, there will be a small number of second generation Filipinos.

In view of the fact that more Filipinos are going home than coming to the United States, their number will continue to decrease. The same thing is true with the Chinese population in this country.

Japanese Children

Only Japanese will have a second generation sufficiently adequate to replace the old generation. But the second generation Japanese are born here. They are American citizens. Although orientals in physical traits, they are gradually absorbing American cultural traits.

Those American-born Japanese are as much entitled to a livelihood as any other American citizen. Their problem is one of America, not Japan. For instance, if they find no work Uncle Sam will have to give them relief. As a matter of fact, very few Japanese have applied for relief.

Americans should encourage this pride of the Japanese by not depriving them of their jobs. They should bear in mind that any disease, social or physical, that affects part of the population is a potential if not an actual disease of the whole.

Reckless competition among capitalists and industries is greatly responsible for the importation of immigrant labor. They hope to use it to undercut wages and to scab on other workers.

In 1931, when cannery workers received as low as $25 a month, the industry said: "We want to employ our own people, but we cannot dispense with oriental labor."

Under the leadership of Virgil Duyungan, Filipino workers founded the Cannery Workers and Farm Laborers Union in Seattle in 1933. Later Filipinos included Japanese, Chinese, Negroes, Whites, etc. Now this Union is known as Local 7 of UCAPAWA.

They sent organizers to include the Alaskans in a coastwise industrial organization so that natives in the territory could enjoy the same wages and protection. Then some employers turned around and made the orientals the scapegoat.

Employer Propaganda

Lurid stories of immoralities were spread about the orientals. But according to Dr. Norman Hayner, a criminologist in the University of Washington, the crime ratio of orientals compared with whites of the same age group living in the same areas is lower than the native population.

It is clear that most of the accusations against orientals are exaggerations. As a matter of fact Local 7 and UCAPAWA have spent money organizing native workers in Alaska.

Last Summer members of Seattle Local 7 helped morally, physically and financially to support the picket put up by Ketchican Local 237 in order to win a minimum guarantee for native Indians, whites and others who were resident cannery workers.

If wage guarantees and conditions for resident workers are the same as those provided in the contract signed by UCAPAWA with the industry there would be no cause for jealousy and division among the workers. This has already become a practice in some canneries, and the native workers there are very grateful to the members of Seattle Local 7, Portland Local 226, and to the UCAPAWA, which has secured minimum guarantees for them.

Tobacco

Gompers' Local Joins UCAPAW

"Your Union, in joining the UCAPAWA, brings us the richness of 64 years of experience and struggles," stated President Donald Henderson, presenting a charter to the Executive Committee of a thousand cigar workers.

Indeed, November 17 was a big day for the men and women who labor in New York City's cigar shops; selecting, stripping, bunching, rolling, picking and packing union-made brands. The Labor Temple Hall was filled to capacity. Rows and rows of workers, men and women, different nationalities and ages, sat absorbing words that brought them a feeling of greater strength and new hopes.

Now they were in UCAPAWA through a unanimous vote to affiliate with the young CIO International. Men who had worked for more than 40 years in the trade; pioneers of labor organization, who knew and labored with old Samuel Gompers, founder of their local in 1875, had finally become part of UCAPAWA and the CIO. Younger men and women, sons and daughters of the old craft masters of New York, Tampa, Cuba, Puerto Rico and other places welded together in hardships and struggles, they were happy to be in the CIO.

Left AFL in 1937

On the speaker's table was a photostat copy of their original AFL charter with the signature of Gompers. Cirgarmakers, fighting against great odds in their trade had made labor history and built traditions. Sifting experiences, the New York workers learned lessons of industrial unionism and true worker's solidarity.

1936 was a year of decisive struggles. The problem of survival was faced heroically for here the sweatshop was spreading like a plague throughout the cigar trade. Shop owners threatened, but the cigar workers knew the answer and they spread the union and struggled.

But AFL International Office not only did not support them; it acually was ready to sell them down the river. While the 125 Anton Bock factory workers sat for weeks, night and day, in a vigil against hunger for their right to organize in a New York loft, a cigar factory in Pennsylvania, where union members were working, was producing cigars for the struck shop. The Cigar Makers International Union (AFL) representative for the region was "too busy" elsewhere. Mr. Van Horn, General President, "could do nothing"—so the New York cigar workers **did** something and joined the CIO.

Industrial Union Local 273 doubled its membership, raising wage standards for the workers and establishing firmly the right to organize and bargain collectively for over a thousand members.

Thoroughly Progressive

Because the New York cigar workers have achieved unity for progress, only what is best in the old traditions have been kept. And one may see an Executive Committee of men and women of different nationalities and ages who speak the language of militant unionism.

"We have built our union by collective efforts," said Armando Ramirez, secretary-treasurre, "and now, in the UCA PAWA, we will go forward in New York and elsewhere."

The men and women whose trade is an art come to throw their lot with the agricultural, cannery and food processing workers, knowing that affiliation with UCAPAWA will strengthen their ranks for further organization in the tobacco industry—knowing also that new and greater responsibilities are before the labor movement and that their experiences can benefit other workers.

In this spirit the United Cigar Workers, UCAPAWA Local 273, sent a delegation to District 7 Convention on Dec. 9 and 10.

Who Was Gompers?

Gompers was the first president of the American Federation of Labor. The Cigar Makers Union was organized before the AFL. Gompers came from the cigar industry and was president of the local that has just been affiliated with UCAPAWA.

Fields and Warehouses

On December 27 our International chartered the Hartford Committee to Organize Tobacco Workers as Local 104 UCAPAWA.

In and around Hartford on plantations and in the warehouses men, women and children work long hours for small wages. During the Summer women and children often faint in the fields from working too long in the hot sun.

Many an attempt has been made to organize plantations and warehouses in the Connecticut River Valley. Five years ago, workers in the fields and sheds struck for higher wages and the abolition of child labor. Inexperienced and without leadership, strikers lost. During that period, however, they learned a lot and the idea of trade unionism began to take root.

Unionism Comes

Present membership of the new local is the result of the organizing drive, sponsored by Unity Lodge under the full time direction of Leonard Farmer.

Two leading members of the union were recently fired from the Floydville American Sumatra warehouse for union activity. When a Labor Board complaint was filed the company took them back.

Three days before Christmas, however, Brother Jurezak was fired again "for inferior work." Though he had been with the company for nine years he was evicted from a company-owned house on the Floydville Plantation. Gladwin Allshouse, another active union member, was also fired.

For a few days after complaints were made by the union, things in the warehouse improved. Now they have grown worse again.

Sorters work 40 hours a week and are supposed to sort 40 bundles in that time. They are paid $14.50 a week for this work but if they fail to make their quota they lose 35c for each bundle under it.

Activity in the Floydville warehouse has increased interest in the union. People

(Continued on page 13)

Letters from the Field

We Look Forward

CHARLESTON, Mo.—We like the paper just fine. We love to read it. Members and non-members read it and everyone thinks it is grand. We are still trying to bring members into our local. Am sending you pictures of our members.

Queen Ester Nelson
Secretary, Local 137

W. H. Nelson,
Pres., Local 137

Edna Lee Banks,
Local 137

Landlords Take Check

CAMP HILL, Ala.—The landlords here know when we receive our Government checks. So they are right there when you get them and they are asking you for them immediately. Mr. Tom Askew received a check last year and he happened to use it himself.

Now his landlord, Mr. Woodson Walker, says he can't stay in this country. This is the trouble in Tallapoosa and the adjoining county of Lee. If you don't let them have the checks you will have to move.

They tell us, "If it had not been for my land you would not have the checks. You are getting checks off my land." Please, what must we do? Please put this in print.

—Local 262.

Building CIO

BLYTHEVILLE, Ark.—Am writing a few lines about the CIO. I helped set up the local here. Was elected sister Secretary and I am getting members for the CIO. Am doing all I can to help build the organization up.

Pray for us here in Blytheville.

—J. L. Mitchell.

Education

PARKIN, Ark. — There is a preacher here who is supposed to speak the truth. But he lies against organized labor. Another problem we have is that landlords and bosses control the schools so that working people's children don't get to go to school for more than three months in the year.

Bob Miller and
Douglas Cobbs

—Douglas Cobbs, Local 376.

Blytheville Story

BLYTHEVILLE, Ark.—I am giving you the story of our local here. It was one night late in March that I became disgusted with the leadership I was following and I decided to go another way.

Minnie Hanford,
Marion, Ark.

I wrote UCAPAWA and the CIO asking them to heed my cry.

First I thought I was not heard but one day Brother Henderson heard me and from that time on we have gone forward.

We have a local here second to none. First I was elected Vice-President of the Arkansas Council and now I am Vice-President of the five-state Southern Cotton Council.

—N. D. Harris,
New Friendship Local.

Unbreakable Spirit

MARYVILLE, Cal.—When the Earl Fruit Company went on strike here last July I joined Local 197. Walked the picket line in front of the county jail and Court House.

The time came when a woman had to get on the picket line at the orchard. It fell my lot to go. When we go to the place to start picketing there were several laws parked there. We weren't long before we were on our way to jail.

When we got to the jail my finger prints were taken and I was locked up. I spent that day and night and the next morning until about 10 o'clock in a cell and then the turn-key came up. He took me to have my picture taken. They made me sit in a chair with some numbers across my chest and then snapped my photograph. Then they locked me up again.

Later the turn-key came and said, "Mrs. Morris, I think they are going to let you go home." I went down to the Judge's office. He made me give my word to appear for trial August 28.

Haven't had any trial—yet. I walked out of jail with the same spirit that I walked in with, determined to see the agricultural workers in this state organized.

Cotton Strike

Since there was nothing more to do in Marysville I went into the cotton belt. Got to Pixley in time to help in one of the largest cotton strikes in this country. In Pixley I represented Local 302. From Pixley we went to Kermon, still working in the cotton strike. In Kermon alone 138 people joined UCAPAWA.

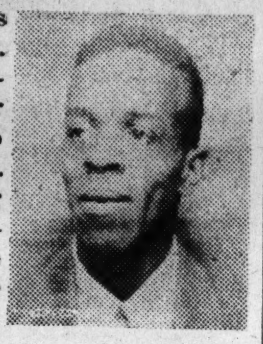
I had to leave there and come back to Marysville but I am still in the battle for the CIO and have been 100% union for thirty years. My husband has belonged to a union ever since we were married. I always wanted to be in the union with him and now there is a union where men and women can meet under the same banner.

From a sister to all brothers and sisters out to better wages and win freedom.

—Mrs. Carrie Morris, Local 197.

Wanted—FSA Loans

CAMP HILL, Ala. — Tenants want FSA loans. We are still moving forward in our local and hope to make a success. We are fighting for our rights — the right to vote and the right to make a living. We all want FSA loans.



Jesse L. Burton

We want to be our own bosses and landlords for we are just slaves down here in old South Alabama. We have been discriminated against so bad and so long that most of us are afraid to organize. Nevertheless UCAPAWA has brought a new day for us. A new light is shining and we are all waking up and will sleep no more. So I am praying that our local 285 will press forward with a bigger determination to win.

—C. C. Aines, President.
Jesse L. Burton, Secretary.
S. E. Burton, Reporter.

Proud of UCAPAWA

TURREL, Ark.—I am proud to say being a witness to the Memphis Convention that I learned a lesson last week. First of all everybody has an individual job in this organization. I know the foundation is of Christ Old, a friend, a brother, a keeper, a redeemer is the UCAPAWA, CIO.

Addie Strong,
Local 61, Earle, Ark.

Wild Bull

First I will speak of our President, Reverend D. M. Garr. He is a great man and a good leader for our people. We are just like the man I heard of who lived in a far country. In that country there lived good people but they could do no good because they were afraid to go to work.

Once a year a wild bull came through the country. The people did not know just what time of year the wild bull was coming. That kept them afraid all the time and for the fear of that wild bull those people were just about to starve. Now, the good man who lived in that country said it was better for one man to die than to let the whole country starve.

So the good man went out to meet the great wild bull. All of the people began to cry and beg the good man not to catch their bull, saying to him, "Don't you know that bull will kill you? Don't you go."

But the good man said, "I will die that you may live." When the people asked him what he was going to do, he said, "I am going to catch the wild bull." The people said, "Don't you know that you can't hold that bull." The good man said, "I will not try to hold him but I will catch him and slow him down until some one can hold him."

So one person can not do everything alone. One catches him, another slows him down and still more people kill the wild bull. When you ask how these things can be done, I say come and join the UCAPAWA and the CIO and help to make it strong.

Joseph Rodgin, Sunshine Local 63.

Landlord Scatters Us

CRAWFORDSVILLE, Ark.—We are doing all in our power to make the CIO grow strong in this country. But our landlord keeps us scattered just like a hen scatters the bitters when a hawk comes along.

James Fry, St. John's Local 336.

Fields and Warehouses

(Continued from page 11)

are at work in each of the 22 warehouses and a valley-wide organization drive is being planned when Summer work starts.

Prepare for Summer

Iris Zin, secretary of the CIO State Council, Leonard Farmer, UCAPAWA representative and Joseph Jurezak of Local 184 American Sumatra Company called on Labor Commissioner C. J. Danher. They asked for a redrafting of the Child Labor Agreement under which tobacco growers have operated in the past. The new agreement raises the age limit from 14 to 16 years old.

The delegation urged that the Connecticut State Labor Department put pressure on the growers to better deplorable working conditions. Although present labor laws are indefinite as to jurisdiction over the field workers the union will do all it can to win the cooperation of the Labor Department for the improvement of conditions on tobacco plantations.

Secretary-Treasurer's Column

By Michael Howard

Secretary-Treasurer
UCAPAWA

In recent months I have been hammering away at locals that are negligent about paying their per capita taxes.

Upon the instructions of the International Executive Board, the International Office is doing everything in its power to tighten up our entire organization.

Already we have had to revoke the charters of 69 locals because of non-payment of per capita taxes. Most of these locals were actually dead. They are being carried on our books in the hope that they would be revived.

Undoubtedly we shall have to revoke the charters of additional locals.

Many of you may have already noticed that the International Office is getting more strict about the paying of per capitas. Many of you are probably wondering why. Is the International trying to get "hard-boiled"? Is the International becoming callous to the problems of the locals?

No, Brothers, far from it.

The truth of the matter is that we are living in serious times. Many things have changed since 1937, when the UCAPAWA was born.

The entire world is in a crisis.

The reactionary industrialists and financiers are using this crisis to stab labor in the back.

Just consider for a moment how well-planned is their attack.

First there is the Dies Committee. The object of this un-American Committee is to discredit the militant labor leaders in the CIO. President Roosevelt has already characterized the methods of the Committee as "sordid." But calling names is not going to stop the work of destruction which this Committee intends to accomplish.

Second there is the Committee to Investigate the National Labor Relations Board. The obvious purpose of this

Committee is to smear the Wagner Act. Once this is accomplised, our labor hating Senators and Congressmen will have an easy time pushing through "amendments" to the Wagner Act in the next session of Congress. It is also interesting to note that this Investigating Committee began its hearings at the identical time that the LaFollette Civil Liberties Committee is exposing the fascistic Associated Farmers in California. And so our civic minded (?) newspaper publishers shove the La Follette Committee news somewhere in the back of their papers, while front page publicity is given to the NLRB Investigating Committee and the Dies Committee.

Third, and equally important, is the vicious anti-alien propaganda. The reactionary interests realize that many thousands of low paid, illiterate workers are in the labor movement. These workers have never had the means nor the opportunity to qualify for the citizenship tests, although many of them were raised in this country. UCAPAWA has a special responsibility in exposing their vicious propaganda for what it really is.

All in all, the New Deal program, as well as Labor, is under attack. It would be ostrich-like to say that this attack is not bearing fruit. Our timid friends in the various New Deal agencies, in order to please their critics, are bending over so far backward that they are nullifying the very purpose for which they have been created.

In short, the whole situation that we are in at the present time is such that only our own organizational strength, the strength of our numbers, is the guarantee that the program of the UCAPAWA will be carried forward.

By this I do not mean to say that we will not continue to utlilize the various government agencies wherever and whenever possible.

But I do repeat, that reliance on our own organizational strength is more and more becoming the decisive factor in determining our effectiveness.

What do I mean by "organizational strength"? Certainly not those locals that pat us on the back, pass a pretty resolution and then tell us: "Thanks for helping us out. Hope we meet again. Sorry we can't pay our per capitas this month. Goodby."

UCAPAWA's strength is measured by the number of members who pay dues. DUES, DUES, DUES. That's what gives us strength. That's what makes possible this very paper. That's the life-blood that course through the veins of the International.

To those Brothers that have been giving us fine excuses instead of paying their dues, we say:

"Brothers, the UCAPAWA, like an army of Labor, is marching forward. We will march forward with or without you. You can either march with us, or stand aside. That's up to you. But do not expect us to carry you."

Local 32 Sends Report on Work

By GLADYS HARTING

Local 32 greets UCAPAWA's Executive Board. We have been quite busy in making the Frazier Packing Company live up to its contract. However at this time our local is in good shape financially.

We have a fine union hall where we hold our meetings every Thursday. On Saturday nights we have dances there and it's open to the public. There is a standing invitation to all cannery workers.

Proud of Progress

Since we have become a part of UCAPAWA District 5 we are very proud of the progress we have made. Harold Lane, District President has straightened out our contact with the management of the Frazier Packing Company in Elwood and Alexandria. Brother Lane has assisted our officers and members in showing us the proper union program and policies.

Woman President

Our local has the only woman president in District 5 and one of the few in our International Union. Her name is Pearl Gifford and you will hear more of her from time to time. We are fortunate to have a group of officers that work so well together.

Our new officers are: President Pearl Gifford, Vice-President Harry Dague, Treasurer Mary Hancock, Financial Secretary Vola Hancock, Recording Secretary Garnet Leer.

Trustees: Jack Dever, Denver Abbott, Katie Hobbs.

Shop Committee: Pearl Gifford, Mary Hancock, Carmen Coe, Thomas Holmes, Loral Harting.

We hope to do our part, too, toward building a strong International Union.

AFL Brings Cuts

NEWARK, N. J.—Wage cuts ranging as high as $19 per week featured the transfer of a food procesing plant under CIO agreement in New Jersey to a New York concern under AFL agreement recently.

The Belleville Fruit Products Corporation in Belleville, N. J., under contract with Local 46 of the United Cannery, Agricultural, Packing & Allied Workers, CIO, recently sold its entire business to the Natural Sugars Company of New York City.

The New Jersey plant was closed down and all machinery and operations moved to New York City. More than 50 of the New Jersey CIO workers were also transferred to the New York plant.

Forced to Pay $5

The New York plant was under closed shop agreement with Federal Union No. 21510 of the AFL. All our CIO members were forced to join, paying $5 initiation fee and $2 per month dues compared with the $2 initiation and $1 monthly dues in the CIO union.

Wage rates in the AFL shop were $12 starting rate for women and $18 for men per week with a $2 per week raise after six months of satisfactory service. All our CIO members had to accept these wage rates and **every CIO member took a wage cut.** These wage cuts ranged from $2.50 to $19 per week for 40 hours work.

What CIO members lost per week by being forced into an AFL shop is shown as follows:

Men

Job	Cut per Week
Head Shipping Clerk	$19.00
Ass't. Shipping Clerks	7.50
Head Cooper	14.00
Ass't. Coopers	8.00
Laborers	4.00
Glace and Syrup Men	4.00
Watchmen	4.00
Pasteurizers	4.00
All Other Male Workers	2.00

Women

Labellers	3.50
All Other Girls.....At least	2.50

These wage cuts, plus added transportation costs to and from work, plus high initiations and dues in the AFL illustrate why the cannery and food processing workers place their confidence in the CIO Cannery and Agricultural Workers rather than phony boss outfits operating under AFL Charters.

FRUIT AND VEGETABLE PROCESSING

UCAPAWA Wins in Can Plant

Cannery Workers Union Local 80, CIO, has won the right to represent production and maintenance employees of the Continental Can Company plants in Camden New Jersey.

John Tisa, organizer of Local 80, hailed the election as a victory won. For instance he said the Company gave the employees a $10 bonus on the day of election. This was $5 more than in previous years. In addition the Company increased wage rates for women on the day before election. In spite of Company interference the good sense of workers prevailed and they won the election.

"The union has no hard feelings of any kind toward those workers who opposed the CIO in this election and we are fully confident many of them will now join the union.

Swift Monopoly Fought and Smashed

By JIM DeWITT

WHITEWATER, Wisc.—With a membership behind its officers, Local 236, United Milk Condensery Workers, UCAPAWA, has obtained renewal of its agreement with Libby, McNeil & Libby. This local was formerly in the AFL but is in the CIO family for nearly eight months.

The new agreement embodies a guarantee of 52 weeks work a year not to exceed 44 hours per week average at weekly pay rates instead of hourly rates. Weekly pay rates are as follows: chief engineer, $46.20; Intake men, Pan Operators, Testers, Filler men, Sterilizer men, Labeling Machine Operators, $28; Separator men, $25; Homogenizer men, Firemen, $26; General help and minimum pay rate, $23.10.

Vacation pay is as follows: under five years, one week; over five years, two weeks; over 15 years, three weeks. Six days sick leave is allowed annually. Arbitration is also a part of the agreement.

This is an ideal agreement for a small city of 3000, and due credit goes to the valiant members of this local of 32 members who have fought the giant Swift monopoly to a standstill. Its agreement is being used as a model to organize the other 65 milk condenseries of this state. Don McQuillan is Secretary-Treasurer of the local and a competent milk condensery organizer and negotiator. Here we have the annual wage as a reality and it is going to spread over the milk areas of Wisconsin.

Armour Stoops To UCAPAWA

BLOOMER, Wisc.—Immediate gains despite the slack season were made by the new UCAPAWA United Milk Condensery Workers at Armour & Co.

With an approximate 65% membership, Local 24 forced the company (noted for its anti-union attitude) to grant a minimum wage of 45c an hour, affecting about 20 workers.

Recognition of the Union Grievance Committee and international representative in bargaining on grievances and wage rate adjustments were also obtained, as was seniority ratings.

The Union is pushing on to greater membership and consolidation of forces in preparation for spring demands when the plant will be in full operation and demands will be made for the full force of 100 workers. The local distributed to all children of Armour employees here, regardless of whether the kids' fathers are union members, half-pound bags of CIO- made Ziegler candies for Christmas.

International Representative DeWitt organized and is carrying on the work here. He is also working on organization at the other Armour Milk condensery at Stoughton.

Libby, McNeill & Libby Milk Condensery, Whitewater, Wisconsin.

Armour & Co. Milk Condensery, Bloomer, Wisconsin

District 7 Faces 1940

PHILADELPHIA, Pa.—The third annual Convention of District 7, UCAPAWA, held in Brooklyn, N. Y., Dec. 9 and 10, voted unanimously to initiate an organizing drive that would double the present membership of 3,000 workers within the next year.

The enthusiasm of the Convention was expressed by one delegate when he said, "If John L. Lewis thinks we are going to wait five years before we have two and one half times as many members as we now have he is mistaken."

The Convention voted to concentrate organizing drives in New York City, Camden, N. J. and Philadelphia with a full time organizer or more in each territory. In February an organizer will be placed in Western New York State.

New York Headquarters

To faciliate the organizing drive the District headquarters will be moved to New York City early in 1940.

The organizing work will be financed principally by existing local unions in the concentration areas with the full assistance of the District organization. The principal responsibility of the District was to conduct organizing work where no locals exist at present.

Resolutions passed included reaffirming the CIO policy of keeping America completely out of the present European wars; protecting and extending the present coverage of the Wage-Hour Act, National Labor Relations Act and Social Security Act; for more aid to unemployed; condemning the Dies Committee for unwarranted and slanderous attacks upon the Union and its leaders; extension of the Federal Housing program to rural workers; and reaffirming the policy of the Union never to permit discrimination because of race.

A uniform monthly dues button for the use of every local union in the District was authorized.

A collection totaling $10 was taken up among the delegates to send Chris Clarich to help him and his family enjoy Christmas—as much as that is possible in jail.

Need Education

Principal addresses at the Convention were made by President Donald Henderson who commended the District on its determination to conduct increasing organizing activity and who stressed especially the need for educational activities in the District and local unions, and by Philadelphia CIO Regional Director Joseph Cannon who traced the history of industrial organization from the late 80's until the present.

Newly elected officers of the District are: president, Lief Dahl, vice-presidents, Hattie Marcy, William Robbins and Anna O'Brien, secretary-treasurer, Armando Ramirez, and executive board members, Ed White, Walter Sammler, John Juditz, Arthur Stang, George Doyle, Harry Vandewater, May Kern and John Hess.

STFU Exposed

(Continued from page 5)

ton workers of the South have democratically voted to retain their CIO Unions and to place full faith and confidence for future organization and liberation from wage slavery with the rest of the trade union movement in America.

SIGNED:

Missouri Agricultural Workers Council,
O. H. Whitfield, Secretary-Treasurer, Kirkwood, Missouri.
Zella Whitfield, Kirkwood, Missouri.
W. H. Jones, Board Member, Harviell, Missouri.
Blanche Fischer, Harviell, Missouri.
Johnnie F. Moore, Board Member, Hayti, Missouri.
E. L. Hughes, Board Member, Morley, Missouri.

Arkansas Agricultural Workers Council,
Bob Miller, Board Member, Parkin, Arkansas.
John Day, Organizer, Arkansas.
J. B. Adams, Chairman, Turrell, Arkansas.
Ed Harris, Vice-Chairman, Blytheville, Arkansas.
Henry Chance, Secretary, Turrell, Arkansas.
Elvira Dale, Board Member, Blytheville, Arkansas.
Doba J. Gentry, Board Member, Blytheville, Arkansas.
Ida Lee Clark, Board Member, Blytheville, Arkansas.
Hattie Howard, Board Member, Turrell, Arkansas.

Texas Tenant Farmers' Union
Harry Koger, President, Longview Texas.
H. C. Thompson, Board Member, Longview, Texas.
Mollie Robinson, Secretary-Treasurer, Longview, Texas.

Oklahoma Tenant Farmers' Union.
Otis G. Nation, Organizer, Bristow, Oklahoma.
C. Hall, Board Member, Bristow, Oklahoma.

Alabama Agricultural Workers' Union,
Hosie Hart, President, Dadeville, Alabama.
Matt Brooks, Board Member, Dadeville, Alabama.

Wage Hearings

The Department of Agriculture conducted hearings under the Sugar Act in Colorado on January 18. Hearings covering North Wyoming and South Dakota were held in Billings, Montana on January 25.

Colorado hearings covered Nebraska, South Wyoming and Kansas. A new and improved point was covered by the hearings. It was the first time that the question of the grower labor contract was dealt with in full.

In the past the grower refiner contract has been discussed and wages determinations have been made. The contract between labor and the grower has not been considered until these last hearings.

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"If you've got a squawk, attend your meeting and make it."